

Cancer Waiting Times, April 2018 – Provider Based - Final

The latest monthly Official Statistics on waiting times for suspected and diagnosed cancer patients accessing NHS services, produced by NHS England, were released on 10/01/2019 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Waiting Times for Cancer Services – April 2018

The key results for outpatient services and first definitive treatments show that, in England, during the period April 2018:

Two week wait:

- 90.8% of people were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer (93.2% in March 2018)
- 84.3% of people urgently referred for breast symptoms (where cancer was not initially suspected) were seen within two weeks of referral (91.0% in March 2018)

One month (31-day) wait from diagnosis to first definitive treatment:

- 97.3% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis, all cancers (97.5% in March 2018)
- 98.5% of people treated for breast cancer began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (98.3% in March 2018)
- 97.2% of people treated for lung cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.8% in March 2018)
- 97.7% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.7% in March 2018)
- 95.1% of people treated for urological cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (95.6% in March 2018)
- 98.1% of people treated for skin cancers began first definitive treatment within 31 days of receiving their diagnosis (97.7% in March 2018)

Two month (62-day) wait from urgent GP referral to first definitive treatment:

- 82.3% of people treated began first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP, all cancers (84.7% in March 2018)

- 94.0% of people treated for breast cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (94.1% in March 2018)
- 72.0% of people treated for lung cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (76.8% in March 2018)
- 72.4% of people treated for lower gastrointestinal cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (78.1% in March 2018)
- 79.4% of people treated for urological cancers (excluding testicular cancer) received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (80.3% in March 2018)
- 95.7% of people treated for skin cancers received first definitive treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred for suspected cancer by their GP (96.7% in March 2018)

62-day wait extensions

- 85.3% of patients began first definitive treatment within 62 days of a consultant's decision to upgrade their priority, all cancers (87.4% in March 2018)
- 88.3% of people began first definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of referral from an NHS cancer screening service, all cancers (90.6% in March 2018)

The key results for waiting times for second or subsequent treatment show that, in England, during the period April 2018:

31-day wait for subsequent treatment:

- 94.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was surgery (94.9% in March 2018)
- 99.3% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was an anti-cancer drug regimen (99.3% in March 2018)
- 97.2% of people began treatment within 31 days where the subsequent treatment was a course of radiotherapy (97.1% in March 2018)

More analyses are published as part of this statistical release on the NHS England website.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/cancer-waiting-times/quarterly-prov-cwt/>

Contact address and email

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Annex: Missing and partial returns

The April revised data reported for University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (RRK) in this publication is partial. In particular, it does not include any data recorded against the legacy site codes associated with Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust (RR1). This affects all cancer standards with the exception of One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Radiotherapy). Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust (RR1) merged with University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (RRK) on 1 April 2018.

Any other trust sharing pathways with what was Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust (RR1) using legacy site codes will also be affected.

The shortfall for April 2018 in activity volumes nationally is given in the table below. The expected impact of this partial data on national performance is very small (less than or equal to 0.2 percentage points).

Standard	Estimated shortfall in April 2018 activity
Two Week Wait From GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment	1.4%
Two Week Wait Breast Symptomatic (where cancer not initially suspected) From GP Urgent Referral to First Consultant Appointment	1.6%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a First Treatment for Cancer	1.2%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Anti-Cancer Drug Regimen)	0.5%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Radiotherapy)	0.0%
One Month Wait from a Decision to Treat to a Subsequent Treatment for Cancer (Surgery)	0.5%
Two Month Wait from GP Urgent Referral to a First Treatment for Cancer	1.2%
Two Month Wait from a National Screening Service to a First Treatment for Cancer	0.1%
Two Month Wait Following a Consultant Upgrade to a First Treatment for Cancer	1.6%